



Open Letter

The e-newsletter of the Open Campus, UWI

Open Campus Developments

RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES CEREMONY FOR CLASS OF 2008 IN DOMINICA



Deputy Principal of the University of the West Indies Open Campus, Professor Vivienne Roberts addressing the graduates at the graduation ceremony at the UWI Open Campus, Dominica.



Dr. Francis O. Severin, Head of the UWI Open Campus, Dominica welcoming the audience to the graduation ceremony.

The University of the West Indies Open Campus, Dominica held its Recognition of Graduates Ceremony for the Class of 2008 who studied via online and blended learning methods, as well as two graduates from the Mona Campus. The ceremony took place on Tuesday, March 31 2009 at the Ball Room, Fort Young Hotel. The theme of the event was: **UWI Graduates: Unlocking Our Potential**. Deputy Principal of the University of the West Indies Open Campus, Professor Vivienne Roberts presided at the ceremony, which was chaired by Head of the UWI Open Campus Dominica, Dr. Francis O. Severin.

At the ceremony, 41 graduates (29 females and 12 males) were presented with the following degrees and certificates: the Executive Diploma in Management; the Bachelor of Science in Management Studies; the Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness Management; the Bachelor of Education in Literacy Studies; and the Bachelor of Education in Educational Administration. Two graduates received the Master of Science, Nursing (Family Nurse Practitioner). Mr. Ray Francis, Management Accountant at DOMLEC and UWI Cave Hill Valedictorian of 2003 delivered the feature address. Mr. Patrickson Carbon (BSc. Management Studies), First Class Honours graduate and Class Valedictorian delivered an address on behalf of the graduates and Ms. Kyra Paul (BSc. Management Studies with First Class Honours) delivered the vote of thanks.

Reigning Ms. Dominica 2009, Ms. Kayan Toussaint, a BSc. Accounting student of the Open Campus, was on hand to present awards to First Class Honours graduates Patrickson Carbon, Kyra Paul and Sylvia Alexis-Valerie (BEd. Literacy Studies). She also presented awards to the two first graduates of the BEd. Literacy Studies programme, Sylvia Alexis-Valerie and Marvelyn Jacob-Pharoah.

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A jubilant Ms. Kandra Aisles, receives her Scroll from Head, UWI Open Campus, Dominica, Dr. Francis Severin for an outstanding performance in BSc. Management Studies.



Deputy Principal of UWI Open Campus, Professor Vivienne Roberts congratulates Ms. Davina Dupigny on successfully completing the BEd. in Educational Administration.



Miss Dominica 2009, Kayan Toussaint presents Mr. Patrickson Carbon, First class Honours Student (BSc. Management Studies) and Class Valedictorian with an Award.

Among the highlights of the ceremony were two musical interludes which featured reigning Calypso Monarch of Dominica, King Karesah (Mr. Gregory Riviere), a B.Sc Management Studies student of the UWI Open Campus Dominica; and Mr. Daryl Bobb, a UWI Alumnus and popular local artist, famous for his silky voice in the popular 'Ruff and Reddy' Caribbean Christmas Album. The UWI Alumni Association President Ms. Irma Edwards formally welcomed the new alumni to the Alumni Association and the Dominica Chapter.

The audience comprised His Excellency the President Dr. Nicholas J. O. Liverpool, specially invited guests, family members, friends and well-wishers of the graduates. Of course, the media, which the Dominica Site Head refers to as partners in UWI's Outreach thrust, were in attendance. It was another proud day for the University of the West Indies Open Campus as it fulfilled its mission in a very celebratory and tangible way of "meeting the higher education learning needs of an ever widening population of students, in order to contribute to UWI's mission of unlocking the potential of the peoples of the region."

UWI Open Campus St. Lucia Receives Collection of Roderick Walcott's Works



Miss Carrie Walcott, the daughter of the late Mr. Roderick (Roddy) Walcott, presents the Pro-Vice Chancellor and Principal of the UWI Open Campus, Professor Hazel Simmons-McDonald with a collection of her father's Work.

The University of the West Indies Open Campus, Saint Lucia was the recipient of a collection of Mr. Roderick (Roddy) Walcott's works donated by his widow Mrs. Estella Walcott, and made possible through a grant from UNESCO. The formal donation of the collection occurred on Tuesday April 7, 2009. Miss Carrie Walcott, the daughter of the late Mr. Roderick Walcott, travelled from Toronto, Canada to represent the Walcott family at the event.

Mr. Roderick Walcott, the twin brother of Nobel Laureate Derek Walcott, died in 2000 and left behind a wealth of writing and art. He was a literary giant in his own right, having produced a sizeable quantity of work including 17 dramas and 8 musicals in addition to several unpublished writings and works of art. His play, *The Harrowing of Benjy* is considered to be the most often produced play in the Anglophone Caribbean. His most famous musical, *The Banjo Man* was staged by St. Lucia for the first CARIFESTA in Guyana in 1972. It was part of a trilogy that includes *Chanson Marianne* written in 1974 and *Romiel et Violette* written in 1979. Many of the folk songs from these plays (produced in collaboration with local musician Charles Cadet) have become classic St. Lucian songs.

In receiving the collection, the Pro-Vice Chancellor and Principal of the UWI Open Campus, Professor Hazel Simmons-McDonald indicated that this gift was a major boost to the value of the Open Campus library holdings and expressed deep gratitude to the Walcott family and to UNESCO which funded the transportation and housing of the collection.



In attendance at the event (Front Row l-r) are the Pro-Vice Chancellor and Principal, Professor Hazel Simmons-McDonald, the Governor General of St. Lucia, Her Excellency, Dame Dr. Pearlette Louisy, Noble Laureate, Hon. Derek Walcott, and Companion, Sigrid Nama, and Miss Carrie Walcott.



Noble Laureate, Hon. Derek Walcott and friends chatting about the 'good old days'.

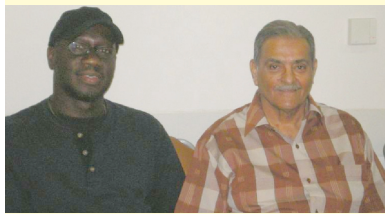
The evening took on a nostalgic flavour as the gathering of friends, relatives and former colleagues of the late playwright reminisced on the old days. The proceedings were punctuated by a calypso tribute to Mr. Roddy Walcott by The Mighty Pelay, the rendition of a song from one of his musicals (*Chanson Marianne*) by Ms. Elra Ermy and the dramatic reading of an excerpt from his play, 'Malfinis'.

UWI Open Campus Antigua & Barbuda participates in Blood Drive

The UWI Open Campus, Antigua & Barbuda recently collaborated with the Sir Frank Worrell Memorial Foundation of Trinidad and Tobago in promoting a blood donation drive at the newly commissioned Mount Saint John Hospital in Antigua. Special Guest of honour for the occasion was Mr. Nari Contractor, former captain of the Indian cricket team that played against the West Indies team led by Sir Frank Worrell in 1962. He was accompanied by retired UWI Professor Baldwin Mootoo of the Sir Frank Worrell Memorial Foundation.

Mr. Contractor's cricket team was touring the West Indies in 1962 during the captaincy of Sir Frank Worrell when Mr. Contractor was struck on the head by a ball from the West Indies fast bowler, Mr. Charlie Griffith. As a result of that unfortunate incident, Mr. Contractor was hospitalised, and was given blood by Sir Frank Worrell. Subsequently, a blood drive in honour of Sir Frank Worrell was commissioned first in India and then later in the Caribbean. The four-hour drive was supported by the public and served as a catalyst for the renewal of public awareness of the ongoing need to keep the blood bank adequately supplied. The importance of the drive was outlined by Dr. Petra Miller-Nanton, a UWI alumna and a senior member of staff of the hospital laboratory who appeared on Television and on radio with a panel that included Mr. Andy Roberts, former West Indies fast bowling great.

The UWI Open Campus, Antigua and Barbuda is pleased to be the first site in the UWI-twelve to host this annual humanitarian effort and looks forward to future collaborative initiatives with the Sir Frank Worrell Memorial Foundation which has expressed the desire to make this event an annual one.



Head of the Open Campus, Antigua & Barbuda, Mr. Ian Benn with Mr. Nari Contractor at the Mt. Saint John Hospital.



Mr. Nari Contractor & Dr. Petra Miller-Nanton, UWI alumna and a senior member of staff of the Mt. Saint John's Hospital during the blood drive.

The UWI Open Campus Dominica's Distinguished National Lecture



The University of the West Indies Open Campus, Dominica collaborated with the National Bank of Dominica Limited (NBD) to bring to the Dominican public another informative and exciting educational event in the form of the Second NBD/UWI Open Campus Dominica Distinguished National Lecture on Tuesday, March 24, 2009 at the Fort Young Hotel in Roseau.

This year's lecture entitled "The Crisis in Education and Leadership: What Role has Gender Privileging played in the Caribbean?" was delivered by Dr. Mark Figueroa, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus. Before a very large and diverse audience, including the President of the Commonwealth of Dominica, His Excellency Dr. Nicholas J. O. Liverpool and Mrs. Liverpool, Dr. Figueroa explored several pertinent issues related to the concepts gender privilege and gender privileging. Reviewing CXC-CSEC results, he concluded that females tended to achieve higher; females performed better; gender segregation in technical and vocational subjects was still very prevalent; and males performed better only in a minority of subjects. In spite of the foregoing, males were still at the top of the education pyramid; they led in most fields; less qualified males were still paid more; and there was less prestige attached to female fields.

He explored the dynamics of gender privileging in education in terms of how socialisation, school organisation, labour, market structure and identities and opportunities interacted. In speaking to the leadership crisis, he asserted that by making the default or preferred position for leadership a male, Caribbean gender privileging limited our social possibilities and hence the likelihood that we would avoid or resolve many of the region's social challenges. Dr. Figueroa affirmed that there were many social concerns, most notably the rapid rise in crime and violence that can also be attributed in part to the nature of gender privileging in the Caribbean.

A very lively question, answer and discussion session followed Dr. Figueroa's well-researched and informed presentation. As part of the evening's programme, Ms. Leandra Cuffy, one of Dominica's female Calypsonians, sang the National Anthem while Mr. Simeon Joseph, a graduate of the UWI, led the gathering in prayer. Mr. Gregory de Gannes, Managing Director of the NBD delivered a brief address, emphasising the NBD's community relations approach while the Head of the UWI Open Campus Dominica, Dr. Francis O. Severin, extended welcome remarks in his role as chair of the event. The vote of thanks was delivered by Mr. Clyde John, Manager Operations, NBD. The media were present and the lecture was carried live on radio.



Head of UWI Open Campus, Dominica, Dr. Francis O. Severin, Managing Director of NBD, Mr. Gregory de Gannes and Manager Operations, NBD, Mr. Clyde John listen attentively to the Presenter.

UWI Open Campus St. Lucia



Rawle Gibbons interacts with the local Artists.

Members of the Caribbean Network of Art Presenters (CARIBNET) spent two days at the UWI Open Campus, Saint Lucia on March 20 and March 21. CARIBNET is a non-governmental organisation whose purpose is to promote, support and develop the arts of the Caribbean region through the exchange of information, performances, exhibitions and the production of events and cultural activities.

The weekend was an opportunity to showcase artistic talents and create avenues for potential future exchanges within the region, with the vision of creating a network of contacts and resources from which to strengthen the position of the region as a flourishing place in the world for arts and culture. It included the sharing of poetry by local writers and special presentations by students pursuing the CXC Theatre Arts syllabus.

Regional artistes, Rawle Gibbons (Trinidad) Yvonne Weekes (Barbados), Urias Peters (Grenada), Hazel Franco (Trinidad) also presented some of their work. Local participants were very enthusiastic about the intensive interaction between themselves and the artistes from the region. They felt that the two-day sessions not only allowed them to get to know other practitioners of the arts but also enabled them to validate their work by sharing with experts. Theatre Arts teachers expressed the desire for more in-depth workshops to assist them in their understanding of teaching the Theatre Arts, something which the UWI Open Campus is gearing up to do. Head of the UWI Open Campus, Saint Lucia, Mrs. Veronica Simon, indicated that the Open Campus is committed to providing the same type of vibrant artistic and cultural interaction that takes place on the other three campuses and she has entered into discussions with CARIBNET to work towards providing appropriate training for teachers and other persons involved in the arts.

UWI Open Campus Cayman Islands mounts its first face- to-face Course in Computer Literacy



The UWI Open Campus Centre in the Cayman Islands recently mounted the first face-to-face course in computer literacy. The course is a 30-hour course similar to its sister course at St. Augustine, and had the blessing of the Open Campus IT Academy. Eight persons, all adults from different walks of life participated. The course ran for some three months.

In the first part of the course, participants learned basics of computer operation including keyboarding, Windows XP and proper techniques for Internet and e-mail. The second part of the course highlighted three applications: Word, Excel and Power Point. The course was geared at enabling students to learn via the internet in the blended distance learning mode. It is hoped that in the future more e-learning initiatives will be supported, and that this offering will be made available to all the Open Campus centres across the Caribbean. From

all appearances, participants enjoyed the course and benefited from it. Another course has begun without the need for any new advertisement so that probably testifies to the need for this type of training.

UWI Open Campus, Cayman hosts Open Day



Admissions Team

Admission officers from all four campuses of the University of the West Indies descended on the Cayman Islands to promote programme offerings during the first week of March. Marjorie Bolero-Haughton headed the team ably assisted by Janet Caroo from Cave Hill, Patricia Brown from St. Augustine and

Melissa from the Graduate studies section in Mona as well as An-neshia Welsh, the Regional Coordinator for the Northern and Western Caribbean and Robert Geofroy, the acting Head of the Open Campus in Cayman. The campaign culminated with a presentation to some two hundred parents of John Gray High School as well as the Cayman Prep High School.



On-line application

Marjorie stole the show at the parents' evening. Orlando Desdunes, the Administrative Assistant for the Cayman Islands organised all the radio presentations and coordinated the school visits. To all appearances, the visit was a great success and interest in UWI in this small Caribbean territory has heightened considerably. Orlando reports that we have more than doubled our applications

for admission. At present Cayman has about twenty students studying medicine at Mona and many more have expressed interest. Interest has also been expressed in Agriculture and the Sciences as well as Engineering. The team has put Cayman and UWI on the map!

Open Campus People



MRS. JASMINE BABB is a results-oriented Human Resource Management professional with an extensive background in Human Resource Management, Industrial Relations and Human Resource Development. Mrs. Babb holds a Bachelor of Science, Management Studies (with honours) from the University of the West Indies, a Master of Business Administration – Human Resources Management from City University, London, and a Master of Arts in Law and Employee Relations from Leicester University, England, where her dissertation entitled

"Is there a role for labour law with regard to trade union recognition in Barbados, and how could the British experience inform a decision to legislate this process?" was awarded a distinction for its in-depth analysis of the topic presented.

Mrs. Babb has worked with the Government of Barbados as a Labour Officer, The Barbados Institute of Management and Productivity Council as a Management Consultant, The Barbados Light and Power Co. Ltd. as Human Resources Development Specialist, The Barbados National Oil Co. Ltd. as Group – Human Resources Manager and most recently, at RBTT Bank Barbados, Suriname & EC as Regional Manager – Human Resources. In addition, Mrs. Babb has functioned as a Human Resources Consultant, assisting a variety of organizations such as; The Centre for Management Development, UWI., The Barbados Tourism Authority and The Barbados Public Workers Credit Union (to name a few) with Human Resources Development and Management, Employee Training and Strategic Planning.

Mrs. Babb is a Fellow the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (U.K.) and a Fellow of the Chartered Management Institute (U.K.), Member of the Society for Human Resources Management (U.S.A.), Member of the Human Resources Management Association of Barbados and former winner of the United Kingdom Commonwealth Scholarship, 1992. Mrs. Babb is currently pursuing a Doctorate in Social Sciences to be completed in 2010, with a research project entitled 'White Collar Unionization in Barbados'. In 2009, Mrs. Babb joined the University of the West Indies, Open Campus as Director of Human Resources. She has extensive experience in and knowledge of change management environments. She is committed to improving the policies and procedures of the Human Resources Department – Open Campus while working in harmony with all of the departments and country sites that encompass the Open Campus and the wider University of the West Indies.

New Appointment within the Open Campus Country Sites (OCCS) Division in Bahamas



The University of the West Indies Open Campus, Bahamas is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Earl Alfred as Program Officer effective January 1, 2009. Mr. Alfred brings with him over fifteen years experience in Senior Administrative positions in a tertiary institution, College of The Bahamas in The Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

A graduate of the University of the West Indies St. Augustine Campus with a BSc in Management Studies in 1978, Mr. Alfred then proceeded to Toronto, Canada and was

awarded the Master of Education by the University of Toronto in 1981. His Major was Guidance and Counselling. In 1992, he was awarded the Master of Education by the St Augustine Campus of UWI, this time majoring in Curriculum Theory, Development and Implementation.

Mr. Alfred has been functioning at different levels and branches in the field of Counselling at the College of The Bahamas over the past decade. He served as Director of Counselling and Health Services Department of the College of The Bahamas from 1998 to 2003 and was promoted to Counsellor 3, a post that he held until his selection to join the Open Campus, Bahamas of the University of the West Indies.

Mr. Alfred states, "While working with the College of The Bahamas, the major thrust of my duties and responsibilities have been the provision of counselling and support services for students, faculty and alumni of that Institution. In addition to working in my substantive post as Counsellor there, I also served as part-time tutor at the UWI Centre in Nassau. Both these positions afforded many opportunities for interaction with the full-time and part-time adult learners".

Mr. Alfred will bring to the Open Campus his significant background in Research in Adult Education, Curriculum Development and Conference Planning. We welcome the addition of this talented individual to our Centre and ask the Open Campus Family to join us in wishing him an enjoyable work experience.

Your Feedback is Welcome

We welcome your comments on the Open Campus, UWI, and encourage you to send your comments on the Open Letter to us via e-mail @ marketing@open.uwi.edu.